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PP RUEHDBU
DE RUEHNT #0799 1081050
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P 181050Z APR 07
FM AMEMBASSY TASHKENT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7722
INFO RUEHAAH/AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT 2995
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA 9109
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK 3593
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE 3462
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KYIV 0004
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 7057
RUEHSF/AMEMBASSY SOFIA 0168
RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI 1255
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 0478

C O N F I D E N T I A L TASHKENT 000799

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DEPT FOR SCA/CEN AND INR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/18/2017

TAGS: KCRM KCOR PGOV PINR KZ UZ

SUBJECT: MAFIA BOSSSES HAIL "SALIM THE GREAT"

REF: A. 06 TASHKENT 465 (NOTAL)

¶B. 06 STATE 126921 (NOTAL)

Classified By: Amb. Jon R. Purnell, for reasons 1.4 (b, d).

¶11. (C) Summary: A well-connected contact distantly related to mafia chieftain Salim Abduvaliyev has given Post a DVD of Salim's May 2006 birthday party held at his mansion outside Tashkent. The guests consisted of Russian, Georgian, and Ukrainian mafia and criminal figures including Lev Chorniy (also spelled Chernoy), along with singers, actors, and sports celebrities. A Russian State Duma Deputy and President Nazarbayev's son-in-law also attended. Some guests brought monetary gifts worth between \$100,000 and \$200,000. Guests repeatedly referred to their host as "Salim the Great." Copies of the DVD are reportedly circulating in Tashkent and possibly on the Internet. End summary.

¶12. (C) In March a well-connected contact distantly related to mafia chieftain Salim Abduvaliyev gave Post a DVD of Salim's May 5, 2006, birthday party, held at his Gazelkent estate outside Tashkent. The guest list comprised Russian, Georgian and Ukrainian criminal underworld figures, along with parliamentarians, singers, actors, and sports celebrities. Guests repeatedly offered toasts to "Salim the Great." (Note: The mansion was also the venue of Salim's elder son Sardor's July 2005 engagement party, for which the same contact provided us video footage illustrating Salim's ties to families of senior government officials - ref A. End note).

¶13. (C) Salim lavished special attention upon President Nazarbayev's son-in-law Daniyar Sakenov, the husband of Nazarbayev's daughter, Aliya. Salim walked around arm-in-arm with Sakenov and offered to provide him with a police or security escort upon his departure. Russia State Duma Deputy Arsen Fadzaev, a two-time Olympic wrestling champion from North Ossetia who represented Uzbekistan in the 1996 Olympics, also attended. (Note: Salim is President of both the Uzbekistan Wrestling Association and Uzbekistan Olympic Committee's Wrestling Federation. End note.)

¶14. (C) Prominent criminal syndicate leader Lev Semyonovich Chorniy (also spelled Chernoy) attended, and required a walking stick to move around. In a gesture of respect, Salim invited Chorniy and his entourage to a private table. Salim's younger son, Jasur, was also visible, along with Alp Jamol Bank head Muhiddin Jamol, and the director of Tashkent's

Flagman restaurant. Singers included Gulom Yakubov and formerly New York-based dissident Willy Tokarev, who appeared in poor health. Tokarev offered birthday wishes from Lev Chorny's older brother Mikhail, a Russian-Israeli businessman who heads a Russian crime syndicate (ref B). Actor Yodgar Sadiev, best known for his role as a mafia boss in the popular Uzbek film "Shaitanat" ("The Devil's Kingdom"), also attended. Salim reportedly also received birthday wishes from Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov.

¶5. (C) Most guests brought monetary gifts contained in envelopes or large boxes. According to our contact, some of the boxes, particularly those from the Russian mafia figures, contained sums ranging from \$100,000 to \$200,000 in cash. The DVD began with Salim's fleet of black Land Cruisers and Mercedes-Benz limousines driving into his Gazelkent mansion where police officers posted at the entrance gate stood at attention and saluted. (Note: Salim's brother is reportedly a senior Tashkent Province traffic police officer. End note.)

¶6. (C) The DVD's sound quality is excellent, and the dialogue audible. The DVD is reportedly circulating around Tashkent, and may have also found its way onto the Internet. An Embassy employee has also obtained a copy.

PURNELL